

MEDIA ADVISORY

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PIONEERS MEMORIAL receives crucial staffing support

Local healthcare district receives additional staff to support recent COVID-19 surge

(BRAWLEY) — Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District officials announced the arrival of support staff from the National Guard to Pioneers Memorial Hospital today after a recent surge in COVID-19 inpatients earlier this week.

The local hospital was allocated a team of combined 14 registered nurses and emergency medical technicians, who will augment the efforts already in place by Pioneers employees.

The support staff went through an onboarding process on Thursday and by Friday was assisting in the local COVID-19 pandemic.

“The onboarding process was identical to how we onboard registry staff,” explained PMHD Chief Nursing Officer Kristi Gillespie. “The team arrives with all required paperwork, short orientation is provided and the staff has a day to shadow current staff to learn the electronic medical record.”

The support staff is anticipated to remain at PMH for the next two to four weeks while the hospital builds up its staffing to meet the needs of the community.

PMHD announced Wednesday the facility itself was prepped to handle more patients yet primarily needed additional staff to accommodate the sudden increases.

“With the National Guard’s experienced nurses and medics, we are able to staff more beds and keep patients closer to home,” noted PMHD CEO Larry Lewis. “Even though visitations are restricted, it still helps families and patients know they’re not far away.”

The added staff will be assisting patients in the hospital’s Intensive Care and Definitive Observation units as well as the Emergency and Medical/ Surgical departments.

Lewis also noted that in the past months, the Imperial County saw an increase in COVID-19 positive patients within 8-12 days after nationally recognized days, including Easter and Mother's Day.

With Memorial Day around the corner and the hospital's staffing resources already stretched thin, the district reiterated the importance of physical/ social distancing and hand hygiene practices.

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About Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District

Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District (PMHD), located in the city of Brawley, is the culmination of the dreams of many people who were involved in the planning and development of this hospital which opened its doors in 1950. With the challenges that were present then and in today's continuously-changing health care landscape, Pioneers Memorial is continually growing to better serve the community of the Imperial Valley. Most recently in 2016, Pioneers Memorial reached a landmark two-year affiliation agreement with the Scripps Healthcare Network. Scripps is ranked among the nation's best hospitals by U.S. News & World Report. This partnership with Scripps is a significant step forward to bringing the necessary care and resources to strengthen Pioneers and expand the needed services for the Imperial Valley.